

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 9 and 17-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 9 and 17-20 were rejected. Claims 1 and 17 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-7, 9, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shepherd (U.S. Pat. No. 195,850). Claims 21 and 22 were added.

Shepherd does not teach or suggest “first and second bladder[s] are capable of being folded into said sleeper sofa when not in use.” There is no motivation for one skilled in the art to modify Shepherd to supply the missing limitations because such modification would render Shepherd useless for its intended purpose. A solid mattress of a standard thickness for use on a conventional bed as disclosed in Fig. 1 of Shepherd cannot be folded into a sleeper sofa without rendering the solid mattress useless as a continuous sleeping surface. Neither air bladders nor sleeper sofas were invented in 1877 when the Shepherd patent issue. Accordingly, the Shepherd mattress was not designed to be folded into a sleeper sofa. Based on the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims patentably distinguish over the cited art and allowance is earnestly solicited.

3. **Conclusion.**

Applicants respectfully submit that with the arguments and amendments presented herein all pending claims are allowable over the art of record and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

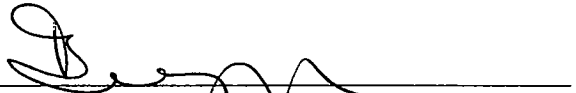
If the Examiner believes that a teleconference would be of further value in expediting the allowance of the pending claims, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number listed below. Applicants hereby petition for a three-month extension of time to file this response. The three-month statutory period for response was March 15, 2006. A three-month extension extends the time period for response to June 15, 2006. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the three-month extension of time for a large entity of \$2160.00 and to charge or credit any other fees or overpayment to Deposit Account No. (Reference #8929-3049).

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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